(25)

# REMARKS

ON THE

# SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

# *African* Company's CASE.

ALTHOUGH 'tis not poſſible at preſent, to anſwer diſtinctly two Pamphlets of the *African* Company, containing 47 Pages, and to confute over and over again, the many Facts ſet forth in the one call'd their *Caſe*; and in another call'd *A Supplement thereto:* Which ſaid Facts have been ſo often before diſproved, both at the Bar of the *Houſe of Commons*, and at the Board of Trade, in almoſt every Particular:

Yet the ſeparate Traders may venture, tho' in haſte, to make ſome few Remarks, eſpecially on the latter of theſe Pamphlets, ſaid alſo to be an Anſwer to a Paper call'd, *The State of the* Britiſh *Trade to* Africa *conſidered:* And firſt, it may be fit to obſerve, what material Facts therein contained, the Writer of that Pamphlet neither denies, or gives an Anſwer to, and conſequently are admitted to be true.

1. 'Tis aſſerted in that Paper, that the pretended Forts in Queſtion, can neither ſecure the Trade, or protect our Navigation on the Coaſt of *Africa*.

2. That nothing but Ships of War can any ways protect the ſame.

3. That the *African* Bubble, in the fatal Year 1720, ruined more Families, and did more Miſchief than all other Bubbles.

4. That the Company's Petition to his late Majeſty, referred to the Board of Trade in 1725, containing the ſame Allegations as are again advanced now, were then proved to be void of Truth, and without Foundation.

5. That the Company, by their abuſing and puniſhing the Natives for their trading with the ſeparate Traders, drove away the Trade on the *Gold Coaſt* to *Annimaboe*, a Free Port, where the Natives can raiſe 10,000 Men with Fire Arms for Protection thereof.

6. That the *African* Trade is carried on in a coaſting Way, in about 4000 Miles Space, out of the Influence of any Forts or Caſtles of any Nation, out at Sea, and in many Free Places of Trade, where there are neither Factories or Settlements, nor ever have been.

7. That the Company pay a Ground Rent to the Natives for their Factories, whoſe ſole Property the Soil is.

8. That the ſeparate Traders have an equitable Property in the ſaid Factories, for the Money they paid purſuant to the former Act.

9. That the Company never paid to Sir *Nicholas Criſp*, or his Heirs, for any of them, who ſtill continue their Claim for the ſame; and conſequently the Company have no other Property than unrightful Poſſeſſion.

10. That

10. That the pretended Charges the Company are at, are partly Mercantile, and partly Military, the former by no means to be intermix'd or reckon'd to the Account of the latter; whereby it appears, by an Account thereof underneath, taken out of the Company's own Books, call'd for by the Board of Trade in 1725, that the Military Charge of the Factories is but a Trifle compared with their Mercantile Charge; and the ſeparate Traders might as well come and demand the great Charges of Factorage, and other Contingencies of their Trade, in reſpect to their floating Factories, as the Company do now in reſpect to theſe Land Factories.

11. That the *French* and *Portugueſe* trade in a coaſting Way, as we do, without any Forts or Land Settlements, from *Cape de Verde* to *Angola*.

12. That the *Dutch* Settlements are of no other Service, than to receive the *Portugueſe* Tribute when their Cruizers bring them up thither.

13. That after the Company got their Act for Compounding with their Creditors, they paid them never a Penny, but made them take Shares, and pay more Money on them, which was all loſt, beſides their Debts.

The ſeveral other Facts or Allegations which 'tis pretended to anſwer, being either in part, or wholly admitted, we ſhall obſerve only on ſome of them.

As to the firſt, that the *African* Trade was Free till 1662.

'Tis inſiſted it was ſo in reſpect to all the Coaſt now traded in, except the River *Gambia*, and that only for a Term of Years.

To the fifth Allegation, that the ſeparate Traders were betrayed into a Duty by one of their Managers, is not denied by this Writer, nor can the Company deny, that he was made Governor of *Cape Coaſt* afterwards, and had a great Salary as a farther Bribe for that Piece of Treachery; but how one Man betraying another can be imputed as a Reflection on any Part of the Legiſlature, cannot be conceived.

As to the ſeventh Allegation being, That the Company's Forts and Caſtles in *Africa* are nothing but Thatch'd Houſes, and Mud Walls, Places of no Defence, and conſequently of no manner of Value; it may be ask'd of this Writer, In what Part of the Paper he is anſwering he found theſe Words, it being a Fiction of his own, and ſeems to be brought on purpoſe to uſher in a Falſity, that the Company have 200 White Men, and 700 Blacks in their Service on the Coaſt, which is of a Piece with the Allegation itſelf, unleſs they include the White Men in their 12 Ships in the Number?

As to the Eighth Allegation, That in 1713, a Bill was paſſed for a free Trade, without regard to Forts or Land Factories; in anſwer whereto, what this Writer ſaith in reſpect to the Reſolution of the Houſe of Commons in 1693, and 1694, relating to the carrying on the Trade in a Joint-Stock, that has no relation thereto; but it muſt be remembred, that the Matter was conſider'd of at that Time by a private Committee, and not by a Committee of the whole Houſe, as it was afterward; who always came to a Reſolution, that the Trade ſhould be free and open till 1713, when a Bill to that Effect was ſent to the Lords.

As to the Ninth Allegation: That the Settlements were maintained from 1712 to 1720, at little or no Expence to the Company; this Writer ſaith, that between 1712 and 1720, Accounts can be produced, that they coſt the Company 100,000 *l.* which is impoſſible to be true; becauſe Mr. *Beaumont*, the Company's Accomptant, being on his Oath at a ſolemn Hearing at the Board of Trade, in 1725, where the Miniſters were then preſent, being ask'd what the Charges of maintaining their Forts and Caſtles amounted to in that Time? His Anſwer was, That there were no Accounts on their Books. And being asked, How they were maintained? he anſwered, Thoſe that lived in them, maintained them, without any Charge to the Company.

In the Obſervation on the Tenth Allegation, wherein 'tis ſaid the Company, in the Year 1720, raiſed 4 or 500,000 *l.* which was all loſt, and occaſioned the Ruin of many Families: This Writer anſwers, That this Money helped to pay the Company's Debts, and for Shares of their Intereſt in Trade, *&c.* and that they loſt 100,000 *l.* by Loans, which he calls an inconſiderable Sum. On which Occaſion 'tis very remarkable, that in their Repreſentation to my Lord *Townſhend* in *December* 1724, they ſet forth, they had been at 600,000 *l.* Charge in carrying on the Trade, and ſupporting the Settlements. On which it may be obſerved, that the Company thus contradicting themſelves, as often as it ſuits their Occaſions, Credit ought not always to be given to ſuch their Inconſiſtencies and falſe Repreſentations.

*An* EXTRACT *out of the* African *Company's Court Books, dated the* 11*th of* June 1672, *appointing the Eſtabliſhment and Charge of maintaining* Cape-Coaſt, *and other their Factories.*

THAT *Cape-Coaſt* be the Head Factory and Garriſon, the ordinary Reſidence of the Governor and Council; and alſo conſiſt of the Perſons to be allow'd the Salaries following:

| | |
|---|---|
| Agent General - - - | 400 *l. per Annum.* |
| Chief Merchant - - - | 200 |
| 2d Merchant - - - - | 150 |
| 6 Young Factors - - - | 300 |
| Lieutenant to Soldiers - - - | 50 |
| Surgeon - - - - | 50 |
| 2 Serjeants - - - - - | 80 |

47 Soldiers, of which as many be Coopers, Carpenters, Bricklayers, Gardeners, or Stone-Cutters, as may be procured, allowing them an Angle in Gold weekly, beſide their ordinary Allowance.

30 Negroe Slaves, not Natives, brought from other Parts of the Coaſt, to have the ordinary Allowance for their Diet.

90 Perſons.

Allowance for Table for the Factors and Agents, *&c.* 700 *l.*

Entertainment of Strangers, 50 *l. per Annum.*

Preſents to be brought as low as may be.

That the Company's Houſe at *Comenda*, be ſecured againſt Fire, for the Safety of their Goods; but that no Fort or Garriſon be erected there.

That the Factory-Houſe there be ſettled, and conſiſt of,

1 Chief Merchant - - - - - - 150 *l.*
2 Ditto - - - - - - - - - - - - 100 *l.*
3 Soldiers.
4 Slaves.
9 Perſons to be allow'd as at *Cape-Coaſt.*

AMISHAM.

That a ſmall Garriſon be ſettled to pay for their own Diet, out of the Salaries to be paid them at *Comenda.*

1 Chief Merchant.
2 Ditto.
5 Soldiers, } to be allowed at *Cape-Coaſt.*
6 Slaves, }

That the Agent General Viſit once a Month theſe two Factories.

Appointment for ACRA.

*Jan.* 25, 1675. Chief Merchant - - - - 150 *l.*
2d Ditto - - - - - - - - - 100 *l.*
3d Ditto - - - - - - - - - 100 *l.*
4 Soldiers, } to be paid as at *Cape-Coaſt.*
4 Slaves, }

*N. B.* The Charges of the Soldiers only, and their Officers, ought to be reckoned on the Foot of the Military Eſtabliſhment, which in the Factories which now have obtained, amount to 59 Men, beſides two Serjeants, a Surgeon, and a Lieutenant; and theſe Men being Artificers of all Kinds, for which they have a further Conſideration than their Wages, were alſo to make good all the Repairs of the Factories and Settlements; and the Wages of all whom being computed as Money of *Africa*, is produced out one half in Manufactures ſold there; and on that Computation, don't amount quite to Six hundred Pounds a Year.

*N. B.* The Mercantile Charges, ſeparate from the Military, amount to twice as much as the other; but even that alſo is *African* Money.

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